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INDIA, SINGAPORE AGREE TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION

In their first multi-ministerial roundtable, the two countries discussed fintech and investment opportunities

AN OPEN DISCUSSION ON FUTURE OF TIES: EAM

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said it was an open and freewheeling discussion on the possibilities and prospects of ties between the two countries in the coming decade. The discussion focussed on ways to enhance cooperation in emerging and futuristic areas. The Indian delegation was led by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

ENERGY SECURITY AMONG TALKING POINTS

- Singapore foreign minister Vivian Balakrishnan said the two countries discussed ways to improve cooperation in food and energy security, digitisation and skills development
- He said it was agreed to jointly meet the challenges posed by evolving geopolitical developments and supply chain disruptions

3-member

INDIAN DELEGATION ALSO INCLUDED COMMERCE MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Chorus grows for Rahul Gandhi as party president

Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Gujarat, Odisha PCCs adopt resolutions in his support

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

CONGRESS leaders from across the country have started exerting pressure on Rahul Gandhi to return as party president. The party's state units in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Odisha and Gujarat have passed resolutions that he be brought back as party chief. Other state units are likely to do an encore.

Rahul had resigned from the post after the party's loss in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Ever since, he has fobbed off calls to take back the party's reins and indicated he may not change his mind.

With the process for the Congress president's election scheduled to begin on September 22, all state units had been asked by the party's central leadership to pass a resolution authorising the incoming president to appoint state unit chiefs and AICC members. While adopting it, PCCs have started passing another resolution calling for the return of Rahul as party president.

In Chhattisgarh, the resolution seeking Rahul's return was moved by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and seconded by PCC chief Mohan Markam, state Assembly Speaker Charan Das Mahant, and ministers T S Singh Deo, Shivkumar Dahariya and Premsai Singh Tekam.

"If similar resolutions are passed in other states, then Rahulji should rethink his decision of not returning as Congress president....keeping in view the sentiments of party workers, I think Rahulji will agree (to become party chief)," Baghel said.

Similar resolutions in 2017

Similar resolutions were passed in 2017 before Rahul was elevated as Congress president. But the situation now is completely different

Rahul had recently said "whether I become president of Congress or not will become clear when elections for the president's post take place." His remark was seen as an indication that he might stick to his stance of not taking up the party chief's post.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh, too, have favoured a consensus for the post of AICC chief. The window for filing nomination papers for the post is between September 24 and 30. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 8. Elections, if required, will be held on October 17. The results will be out on October 19.

PINARAYI PROPOSES, BOMMAI DISPOSES RAIL & ROAD PROJECTS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai here on Sunday turned down various road and rail infrastructure projects proposed by his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan, saying the projects would adversely affect ecologically sensitive areas and wildlife sanctuaries on the Karnataka side.

Bommai and Vijayan held a bilateral as decided at the Southern Region Council meeting convened by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Thiruvananthapuram recently.

"The Kerala government sought our cooperation for its various railway projects, including the Kanhangad-Kaniyoor rail line, and other highway projects. The proposed railway line will have a 40 km route in Kerala and 31 km in Karnataka. But the project will not benefit Karnataka. Besides, it will pass through some of the most ecologically sensitive and biologically diverse areas of the Western Ghats. The Kerala chief minister was clearly told that it was not possible for us to extend cooperation for this project," Bommai told reporters after the meeting.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai welcomes his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan in Bengaluru on Sunday

He said Vijayan also brought up the old proposal of Thalassery-Mysore railway line and was again told strictly that it was not possible to give permission as the proposed rail route would pass through Bandipur and Nagarhole National Parks and would cause great damage to the flora and fauna.

Bommai said he flatly rejected a proposal to construct an underground rail tunnel on the route, as that too would damage the environment during the course of the construction.

Bommai said, "The Kerala CM sought permission to increase the number of night buses passing through the Bandipur National Park from two to four. But we said no."

He said Vijayan also told him that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has proposed a new alignment touching National Highway H-73 that will not pass through any eco-sensitive areas. P4

Infra woes may force firms out of B'luru, says India Inc

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

VARIOUS industry associations in Bengaluru believe that the flooding and recent demolition drive will drive companies out of the city and into other states. A majority of companies are still struggling to recover from the impact of Covid, and the floods have only pushed them further into the red, they said.

Manas Dasgupta, chairperson, IT committee, Bangalore Chamber of Industries and Commerce (BCIC), said the losses incurred by companies because of heavy rain and flooding is very difficult to quantify. The Rs 225 crore loss that was attributed to rain is inaccurate, but it is definitely higher. The notional and reputational loss faced by companies is huge, he said. If the situation persists, companies will definitely consider moving out of the city. P2

Irked by barking, bizman shoots dog

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ENRAGED with a dog barking at him persistently, a 45-year-old businessman shot and killed the canine with his air gun at Madagondanahalli in Doddaballapur on Saturday evening. He shot the dog five times, the police said.

The accused, Krishnappa (45), who owns a piggery, is absconding after the dog owner filed a complaint. He was walking around his farm around 4 pm when the dog, Rocky, started barking. An angry Krishnappa went inside the house, brought his air gun out and shot the dog, said the Doddaballapur Rural police.

The dog owner, Ashok, alerted the police. After the postmortem, the police registered an FIR under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and under IPC Section 429.

EXPRESS READ

Lokayukta police ready to take up probe against Yediyurappa, kin in graft case

BENGALURU: The Lokayukta police in Karnataka are ready to begin investigating corruption allegations against former chief minister B S Yediyurappa and several members of his family. A social activist had filed a complaint against the senior BJP leader and family for their alleged involvement in the case | P4

GEN NEXT

New Guruvayoor chief priest is also a YouTuber

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Thrissur

THE newly-appointed head priest of the Sree Krishna Temple in Guruvayur, Kerala, is the talk of the town. Not only is the 34-year-old **Kiran Anandh** an ayurveda doctor, he is also a popular YouTuber. He manages a YouTube channel with his wife Manasi Mundayakkad.

"I belong to Kakkad Mana, one of the four Othikkan families of Guruvayur temple, and used to take part in major rituals of the temple with my father. I will perform my duties as melsanthi with devotion. The new responsibility will take me one step closer to the lord," said Kiran, who had been working as an ayurveda doctor in Moscow for the past six years.

When his father found it difficult to perform temple rituals due to old age, Kiran returned from Russia and learned how to perform them. P8

Protests in Chandigarh varsity over 'objectionable' video clips

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PROTESTS erupted on the campus of a private university here following claims that objectionable videos of girl students were allegedly recorded and shared on social media by a hosteller. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann ordered a high-level probe into the matter on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, the hosteller was arrested after the Punjab Police registered a case. A 23-year-old man, with whom the hosteller had allegedly shared the objectionable videos, was arrested by Himachal Pradesh Police and handed over to Punjab Police in Rohru near Shimla. The man, who belongs to a well-to-do family, is a school dropout and was working at his hometown. His location was tracked through his mobile number. In a late night development, another 31-year-old man was taken into custody by the Punjab Police for questioning.

Protests first broke out on the campus on Saturday midnight after three students living in the girls' hostel approached the warden and claimed that one of the students had been making objectionable videos. They alleged the hosteller had made videos of others while taking bath and shared them with the 23-year-old man in Shimla, who in turn, uploaded them on social media. The Chandigarh University management and the district administration, however, denied claims that videos of several girls were made and shared. Later they said the accused had shared her own video with the man. Contrary to the claims of the protesting students that some of them had tried to commit suicide, the management said a few had panic attacks and were given first-aid.

Students protesting over alleged objectionable videos, at Chandigarh University | PTI

Police fail to pacify students

Protesting students demanded to see a copy of the FIR and refused to accept the management and police's version. SSP Sonl tried to pacify them but failed

School submerged, students study in temple

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Channapatna (Ramanagara district)

IT has been three weeks since Ramanagara district was pounded by heavy rain, flooding many areas. But students and teachers of the Government Upgraded Higher Primary School in Thattekere area of Channapatna town still cannot enter their school as four feet of water is standing on the premises, making it inaccessible.

Local authorities have not taken any action to remove water from the school, while the students, left with not other option, are attending classes at a nearby temple.

Thattekere is around 60 km from Bengaluru and 11 km from Ramanagara. The school has more than 60 students from Standards one to eight, five teachers and two staff members, including cooks to prepare mid-day meals. P5

A view of the government school which stands flooded due to the recent rain in Ramanagara | VISHWANATH S

87th Birthday

N.P.V. Ramasamy Udayar

Founder-Chancellor,
Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)

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Of noble motivation and creativity
You accomplished the impossible by sheer perseverance and
Attained everlasting glory and fame
On this memorable day, we rededicate ourselves
To your cherished ideals and values and
Follow humbly in your hallowed footsteps..."

V.R. Venkataachalam

Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)
and
Family Members
Trustees, Sri Ramachandra Educational and Health Trust
Faculty, Staff & Students

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